Special Cell in CBI for Scams

1420. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has been asked in inquire into the unaccounted purchase worth Rs. 1200 crores made through DGS&D by the Road Construction and Public Health Engineering Department in Bihar ;

(b) whether the CBI is over-burdened at present in dealing with scams ;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to set up a special cell to look into the scams operting in the country at present; and

(d) if so, by when this cell is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. since requirements of the CBI are carefully assessed and sanctioned whenever found justified.

(c) and (d) In view of the (b) above, do not arise.

Review of Heavy Water Plants

1421. SMT. JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have reviewed the performance of heavy water plants in the country ;

(b) if so, the production of heavy water during the last three years, plant-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the reasons for the poor performance if any, of Talcher heavy water plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Heavy Water being a strategic material, it is not in the national interest to disclose the figures of actual production.

(c) It has not been possible to achieve a satisfactory level of production from the Talcher Heavy Water Plant as an uninterrupted supply of the feed stock (ammonia synthesis gas) in the required quantity, and of the required specifications was not available from the fertilizer plant of M/s. Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited, with which the Heavy Water Plant is integrated.

Land for New Maharashtra Sadan in Delhi

1422. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has been requesting the Central Government for more than ten years to hand over "SIRMUR PLOT" on Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi, so that a new Maharashtra Sadan could be constructed; if so, the reasons for delay in handing over the plot; and

(b) what are the guidelines on transfer of properties in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes Sir. The Sirmur Plot was taken by the Central Government in 1943 from the then Baroda Darbar and since then it is with the Central Government. This plot is required by the Central Government for its own use and as such cannot be returned to the Government of Maharashtra. The Government of Maharashtra has been offered 1.5 acres

land in Srinivaspuri areas as per their entitilement as an alternative.

(b) When the plots were allotted by the then British India Government to the ruling Princes, Raises & Dewans, it was a strict condition that the premises would only by used for the personal occupation of the ruling Princes, Rasises & Dewans and they had no right to transfer this plot to anybody. It was subsequently decided by the Government of India in 1949 that permission for transfer of plots in these areas would be given on condition that lessee passed on the Central Government 75% of the unearned increase. According to this the Government of Maharashtra is eligible for 1.5 acres land in lieu of Sirmur Plot measuring about 6 acres which has since been offered to them.

Phasing Out of Naphtha as Fuel for Power Projects

1423. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have appointed an expert committee to gradually plase out naptha as fuel for power projects;

(b) if so, what are the recommendations made by the said committee and the decision taken thereon;

(c) what is the present demand for naphtha and projections for the next five years, via-a-vis domestic projections and export alongwith the general policy for its use as raw material for power and petro-chemical products;

(d) whether a number of power projects proposed in the private sector have sought import of naphta for power generaion under OGL; if so, the Government's reaction thereto and implications thereof; and

(e) whether Government have finalised the new liquid fuel policy for power projects, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES. (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

District Planning Committees in Gujarat

1424. SHRI AHMED PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether District Planning Committees envisaged by the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act have been constituted in Gujarat;

(b) if not, the districts in the State where such committees are yet to be constituted and the reasons for not constituting such committees so far; and

(c) by when these Committees are likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) Government of Gujarat has informed that no District Planning Committee has yet been constituted in the State. the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992 does not provide for any time limit within which the District Planning Committees should be constituted. The Government of Gujarat has intimated that they are taking suitable action for constituting such Committees within the available legal frame-work. At this Stage, it is not possible to indicate a definite time-frame within which these Committees would be set up.

Reported Multicrore Scam in Powergrid

1425. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Powergrid in multicrore scam" appearing in The Hindustan Times